



MONTEREY NEWS

JANUARY, 1988



TOWN NEWS

Part-Time Residents Invited to Participate in Monterey Government

Selectman Jed Lipsky has announced a proposal for a series of meetings with Monterey summer people and weekenders, which he hopes will "make Monterey government open to ideas and direct information" from people who have little opportunity to have a voice in Town affairs. The first meetings, scheduled for February and March, are to be on weekends in the daytime and promise to be a good opportunity for part timers to communicate directly with Town government.

Lipsky says that once the selectmen in cooperation with the townspeople set up an agenda of the biggest issues there will be representatives assigned to special problems. When representatives and their committees provide recommendations for solutions, the various boards and committees of the Town can implement action. The meetings are open to the public, but they are offered specifically for Monterey part timers. The date of the first meeting will be announced in the February *Monterey News*. Further meetings are proposed for July and August, 1988.

Affordable Housing Grant Application Withdrawn

At their December 21 meeting, the selectmen withdrew the Town's application for an Advance Grant to do an engineering study relating to a proposed plan for an affordable housing project on Town land. It was discovered that there was a conflict between stipulations in the proposal and Monterey's present

zoning by-laws. The board feels it will be more prudent to see whether voters at a Special Town Meeting will approve the proposed use of the ten acres of Town-owned land before applying for funds to evaluate feasibility.

Brush and Stump Disposal Provisions Revised

According to an official notice from the DEQE, landowners are now allowed to bury up to 200 cubic yards of brush and stumps on their land without having to obtain approval by the Town. The limit is to ensure that landowners won't try to create "disposal areas," which need assignment or approval from the Town or the DEQE. There are also regulations involving leaving the brush piled up too long (fire hazard).

Shorts:

- Monterey selectmen received an application from Ray Tryon for a position on the Conservation Commission. The selectmen have appointed Mr. Tryon to the commission, effective January 15, when Catherine Mielke, current chairman, resigns.
- The selectmen received word that Deborah Mielke had resigned from the New Town Hall Committee.
- Monterey selectmen hosted an informal Christmas party for Town officials and volunteers following the regular Monday night meeting, December 21. The office was packed, good food and cheer were in abundance, and spirits were high. The party perhaps foretells more lighthearted moments in Monterey politics.

— Ellen K. Pearson

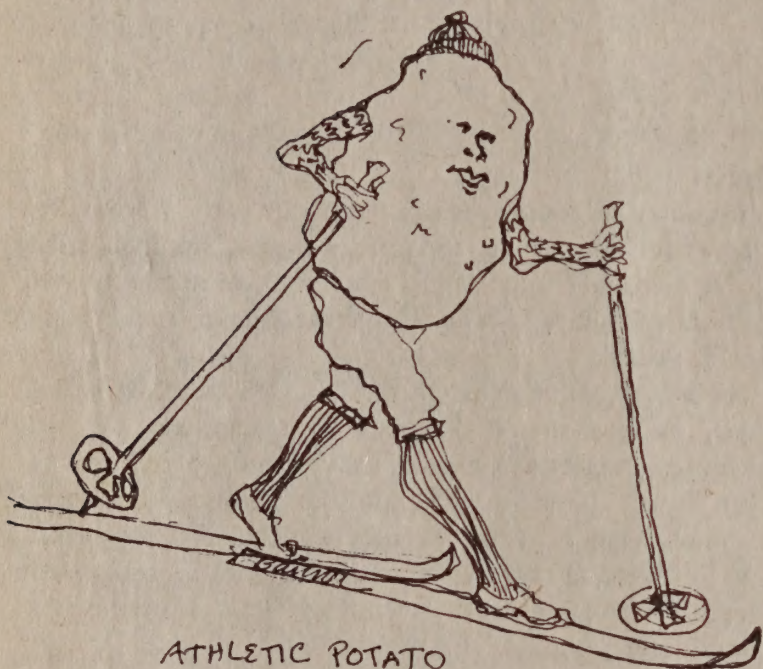


Horses on Blue Hill Road

MONTEREY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Parish Council has decided to meet downstairs for morning worship during the winter months. We were not able to decide the details so we have asked the Rev. Robert Johnson to meet with us on Monday, January 4, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. This meeting will be in the church basement. Bob Johnson will help us brainstorm about our future. If you are interested in worshipping with us, please join us.

— Ardelle Gile
Moderator



ATHLETIC POTATO

VOX ED

The dominant word in the songs of the season has been "Gloria!" The Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah festivals all remind us to rejoice. Why, then, do we encourage the media to blare out the news of natural happenings that are disastrous to people, and the self-inflicted results of the worst aspects of human nature? Are we being realistic and courageous by facing up to the "facts" in our choice of what is "news," or are we being infantile in a kind of unthinking progress from one sensationalized excitement to another? Ernest Hemingway once said it is easy to be a successful writer if you stick to disaster, pain, and death because these will grip an audience whether they are well described and discussed or not.

Alas for Ernest, who wrote stark, clean prose, whatever the subject, the readership is dwindling. The written word is no match for visual and auditory excitement now so easily beamed and taped into nearly every home. The Coalition for Literacy warns that illiteracy in America is increasing not slowly but by such increments that the one-third (!) of our population now illiterate may be two-thirds by the year 2000.

Perhaps we can seek some comfort, in considering the future of humankind, in the thought that the visual media may develop high artistic and intellectual levels unguessable at present. The audible word, spoken and sung, may come back into the glory we suppose it enjoyed in the days of Homer and Beowulf. Storytelling has shown a remarkable new life in recent decades and the young composer-heroes of our popular music are a new phenomenon in Western history.

If this return to the oral and visual is ineluctable, let's hope, in spite of all signs to the contrary, that we will learn to use it well. Meanwhile, why not turn a little of our waning literacy to an appreciation of the positive side of the spectrum on our small planet? In this issue of the *News* we have inserted a headline about sunlight in the treetops. It is neither political nor municipal and serves no interest group other than those unorganized souls who are ready for a little "Gloria!"

— David P. McAllester

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Cheryl Vaughan



SUSAN McALLESTER

Tom O'Brien, Forest and Park Supervisor

BEARTOWN STATE FOREST

This is the time of year when forest rangers and the like are supposedly hibernating next to their woodstoves. Not so, says this one, for there are always so many things to do. The following is a particular December day in the life of this ranger.

Sunday is not the easiest day to gear up for working; no one else is (or so I would like to think). It is snowing steadily and hovers around freezing; weather station says rain likely developing. Star (alias Snow), the wonder dog, awaits human arrival to the Beartown headquarters, all the while immersed in the snow (and so his nickname). He loves the snow and cold even more than I do.

Got to check the pond first thing today: first, for possible stranded vehicles (and occupants) from the night before; secondly, to check for our not-so-common overnight vandalism; and lastly to clean and stock the comfort station (a very creative euphemism, don't you think?). With a few inches of snow on the ground and more falling about my ears, I can be expecting the hardcore winter trail users today, the kind who do not mind if all the rocks are not yet covered with snow. Thinking of which, I have some trail markers still to place out. That job can be accomplished by walking the inner ski and snowmobile trails loops around Benedict Pond, also giving me an opportunity to inspect for blowdowns.

It always amazes me—the difference in comfort with the wind blowing at your back as opposed to at your face; easier walking, too. I head counterclockwise, east and into the wind, intending to have it at my back for the return trip. Walking

uphill and carrying a bit of gear, I quickly warm up. For the rest of my hike I will spend more time keeping cool, rather than warm, in order not to get sweaty and damp. If I am ever forced to bivouac I must be dry. My stops along the way are to install trail blazes and to remove those blowdowns that I can by hand, making mental notes as to where I will have to return with saws and perhaps assistance. I also get to see the effectiveness of our off-season trail improvements on the winter trails, again making notes as to the work that is still needed. (A never-ending battle for truth, justice, and a skiable way.) My mind tends to ramble when I am out in the woods. That is good.

I am only midway on my route when the day's relative quiet comes to an end. The snowmobilers have arrived and are hitting the trails. My first thought, as I listen to the engines in the distance, is that there is barely enough snow. Our regulations state that there must be a minimum of four inches of packed snow or ice before snowmobiles are allowed on the trails. If there are four inches of snow today, it is on the windward side of the barn, but that is not a major concern. I bushwhack back to the nearest road, perhaps to speak with the trail users. Because we have made some winter trail changes, I am expecting some confusion and non-compliance at first.

My first attempts at getting people to stop, even to say hello, are fruitless. That is not good. Eventually, I give up that effort, finish my trail marking, and head out. Upon reaching the parking lot I find about a dozen vehicles with snowmobile trailers, all with Connecticut license plates. The only person I see there "flies" by me helmetless. I intend to come back with some reinforcements.

Shortly after my return to work after lunch, two Environmental Police Officers (EPOs) arrive to help me out. They are empowered to enforce, among other things, recreational vehicle laws and are therefore just the ones I was hoping to see (and had already telephoned for).

We arrive at Benedict Pond to see all the snowmobilers in the process of packing up (the weather forecast was accurate—it was raining). My effort is, and will always be, primarily educational. To some we provide maps, trail information, and good humor. To others there are issued, in the words of an officer I once worked with, "coupons," redeemable at your local courthouse ("You mean that you have to register these things?"). I believe that the majority of the people left with the intention of coming back to use the trails more wisely and still enjoy doing so. Some, as I later learned, in their haste along Barnum Flats met our local police. Each to his or her just desert.

It is now the end of my official workday and, with the prospect of a late supper, time for some creative writing for the *Monterey News*. Thanks for reading, folks.

— Tom O'Brien





MONTEREY WASTELINES

Projections and Resolutions

It's the new year, and time once again to think about resetting the old emotional and chronological gyroscope. Now, the very tender-aged among us may not know just what this exercise involves, but it seems that once we've turned a few years' worth of calendar pages we develop a need to put in order what we've been through and plan for what might come at us in the future. The two horns by which people usually try to grab the New Year are projections about the year and resolutions about what to do in it.

Our subject—remember?—is solid waste. If you've been reading your daily paper and that sort of thing, you can get the idea that projections about waste for the coming year are mostly on the pessimistic side of the scale, so we'll dispatch them with a list, saving the few bright spots till last:

- Prices for the interment of solid waste will continue to be astronomical—or will increase.
- Solid waste will be ranked in the top three or four categories of Town expenditures.
- A subcounty or countywide solid waste system will take at least several years to organize.
- Many people will remain cynical about the value of recycling or otherwise spending time with garbage.

But:

- Newspapers will be gathered in the shed at the Monterey Transfer Station all through 1988.
- Solid waste will be mentioned at the annual Town Meeting—maybe someone will even have some better ideas about how to handle and/or pay for it.
- The state-sponsored MRF (materials recycling facility) will open *sometime* during 1988, and we *might* organize to recycle some of our glass and stuff, with the Springfield MRF as a guaranteed delivery point.

New Year's resolutions are usually a private matter. Monterey's civic resolutions are made at the annual Town Meeting. But a column is a place for taking liberties, so here are some "junk resolutions" I would wish for the citizens of Monterey:

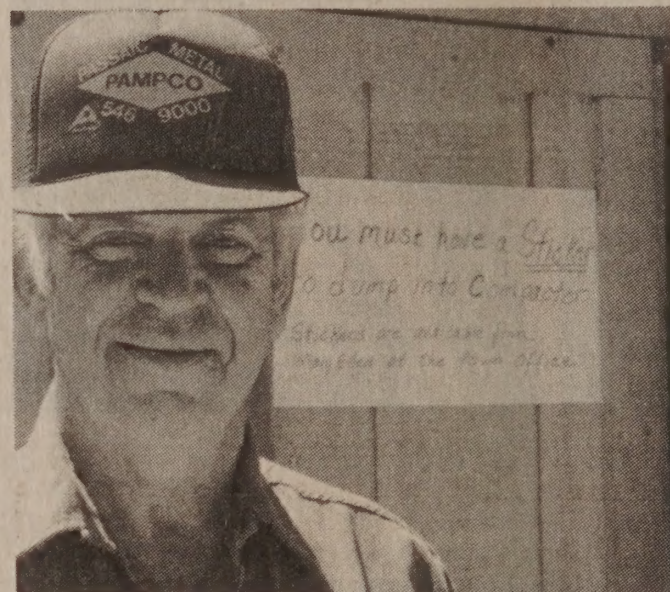
- We will remember that solid waste ("junk," "garbage") is *not* "out of sight, out of mind," but an end product which we will have to pay for in many ways.
- We will try to reduce our solid waste output, even though it will take some time. Reducing waste makes sense to the earth, to our real economic interests, and to our rich rural tradi-

tions of thrift.

- We will recycle lots of newsprint this year, because it's relatively easy, it saves some money, and it gets us started in some good directions.
- We will support additional types of recycling (glass, tin, aluminum, etc.) if and when they are organized by the Town and show promise of viability.
- Our little solid waste crusade will be a positive movement—we will not cast aspersions on other people's waste practices unless we are on the Conservation Commission, Board of Health, or work for the DEQE.

Happy New Year!

— Wayne Burkhart



Robert Hadsell, Custodian of the Disposal Area

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CROWS AT SOLSTICE

This is a time of contrast, of bright winter light through icy trees and of darkness, early and long. It is a time when we think of peace, of children and innocent birth, and it is a harsh hungry time for the wild creatures, the homeless people. We feel cabin fever. We get bad colds, we spend too much on Christmas at a lean time of year, and our precious summer is so far away we wonder if this will be the year it just stays cold and dark. Yet the short light we see in our snowy woods has an intensity you can't feel in the hot steamy days of summer. This is a bewildering time.

Ancient custom held that this was a dangerous time, that there was indeed the possibility the days would fail to lengthen after solstice unless cold winter were driven away by wild partying and a kind of desperate merrymaking. When our natural inclination is to sit tight by the fire, bundle up, conserve energy, we instead sally forth to eat and drink too much, stay up too late, drive around in cars on sloppy roads. It sounds crazy, but every year so far this behavior has had the desired effect and summer has come once again to the Berkshires.

In our family the main contribution to this effort so far this year has been to consume far too many Christmas cookies. As I look around me I see others doing their bit. At our feeder the gray squirrels and grosbeaks are contributing with a will by eating too many sunflower seeds, and here in the house the cats are doing what they can to bring back the summer by demanding unprecedented quantities of milk. We appreciate all their efforts and feel sure the heavens will be swayed again this year. But if there ever were any doubt, any feeling that perhaps our greater community does not party enough, one has only to look to that cousin of the jay and brother of the raven, our big black native crow. This is his social time, his time of great clan gatherings.

Like the jays, crows are not so noticeable at other times of the year. In the breeding and nesting seasons their flocks are small, only a few close family birds sticking together and keeping fairly quiet about their private lives. But in winter, with nest-building and child-rearing over, the crows band together and join flocks in communal roosting places. Each morning they disperse to forage, sometimes quite far afield, for whatever winter may relinquish to their adaptable and omnivorous diet. In late afternoon the feeding flocks return, noisily, often gathering at pre-roosting spots, where there is a sort of conversational happy hour before they all come wheeling in to their roosts. In the Northeast, winter roosts of 50,000 or even 100,000 crows have been reported. In the Midwest these numbers have reached several hundred thousand. People who go through the summer not noticing crows too much are impressed by the great flocks against the winter sky and snowy fields.

It must be the crow's contrast, its blackness against the sky, its size, its bold voice which have made it the object of so much superstitious projection on the part of nervous humankind. But if anyone can bear the burden of all that metaphor, the crow can. Poets, artists, early writers of fables, storytellers, and folksingers have been inspired by the crow for centuries. For now, for solstice, I'd like to leave you with the crow-inspired winter euphoria of Henry David Thoreau.



From his journal, January 12, 1855:

Perhaps what moves us in winter is some reminiscence of far-off summer. How we leap by the side of the open brooks! What beauty in the running brooks! What life! What society! The cold is merely superficial; it is summer still at the core, far, far within. It is in the cawing of the crow, the crowing of the cock, the warmth of sun on our backs. I hear faintly the cawing of a crow far, far away, echoing from some unseen woodside, as if deadened by the springlike vapor which the sun is drawing from the ground. It mingles with the slight murmur of the village, the sound of children at play, as one stream empties gently into another, and the wild and tame are one. What a delicious sound! It is not merely crow calling to crow, for it speaks to me too. I am part of one great creature with him; if he has voice, I have ears.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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THE BASEBALL DIAMOND AND PINE GROVE HALL

... In the lot where the [Leuchs] house now stands we used to play baseball. In 1909 we had a Big Four League, consisting of Lee, East Lee, Tyringham and Monterey. Mr. Tytus of Tyringham gave a large loving cup to the winners at the end of the year. Monterey was the winner. This trophy is on display at the Monterey Library in a glass case. Fred Campbell was the umpire for all games played at Monterey. Our manager was Edward Stoeber and our captain was Joe Johnson. The players were Harry Gladwin, George Evans, Frank Carrington, Irving Hall, Ernest Hall, Perry Fargo, Clayton Bunt, Eugene Jerome, Patsy Heins, Clarence Eihorn and Dick Bidwell. This was a Saturday holiday for all people in town. Nobody worked on Saturday afternoon. Our bleacher seats were a stone wall along first base line and the trees made a shade at some points. Bert Tryon came up with his ice cream and soda from the little store in the village.

... [Across the road from the baseball diamond and to the west] is the Arthur Somers house built by the Whitney Bros. builders. Mr. Somers bought this land at the Lake, which had two buildings on it. One was called the Cash Scranton cottage. It is supposed to be the first cottage built on the lake. It was owned by Henry Fargo. There was also a large building called Pine Grove Hall where outings were held, such as church

picnics. There were sleeping quarters upstairs that would accommodate twelve or more persons. *The New York Times* used to send children to the country for a two week vacation and they lived here at the hall. There was a kitchen at the back and a large dining room where the tables were set. When there was a dance, the tables were taken down and put out of doors. The children used to walk to the village to get ice cream that was frozen by hand and kept in the cellar of Bert Tryon's, where it was dished on to a saucer with a spoon. The boys used to walk to the church steps and sit and eat homemade ice cream in the country. This was the beginning of Tryon's Ice Cream Parlors.

For two or three years Sam Barton from Otis had a passenger boat on Lake Garfield that carried about twenty people. For fifteen cents you could cruise around the shores of the lake. This would take about an hour for it was not too fast. Pine Grove Hall was the outing place for the surrounding towns to gather. The Fourth of July was the day of days. Large crowds were expected on this holiday. This lake was known as Brewer's Pond until July 4, 1881. As they were having a celebration here at Pine Grove, word came that our President of the United States, President Garfield, had been assassinated. It was decided immediately to change the name of Brewer Pond to Lake Garfield. It is said that the Brewers were the first settlers in Monterey. Fred Somers, one of the Somers' sons, took the Cash Scranton cottage, added onto it and made a lovely cottage. Fred and his wife Janet lived here. They had one daughter, Estelle Somers. Andrew Somers and his wife took the Pine Grove Hall, turned it into a fine cottage and lived here in the summer with their families. ... Haviland Staples bought Pine Grove Hall for a guest house in connection with Brookbend Inn. Staples ran it for many years. They added to the boathouse two bedrooms, a bath, and a long dining room and kitchen, making an attractive cottage on the water's edge. After selling Brookbend Inn, the Staples moved to the lake and ran the guest house in summer and rented an apartment at Hebert's beach for the winter. They sold the lake house to Dr. William Oislander from New York and later sold the cottage by the lake to Rudolph Erda

— Taken from the ms. History of Monterey, by A. Wallace Tryon

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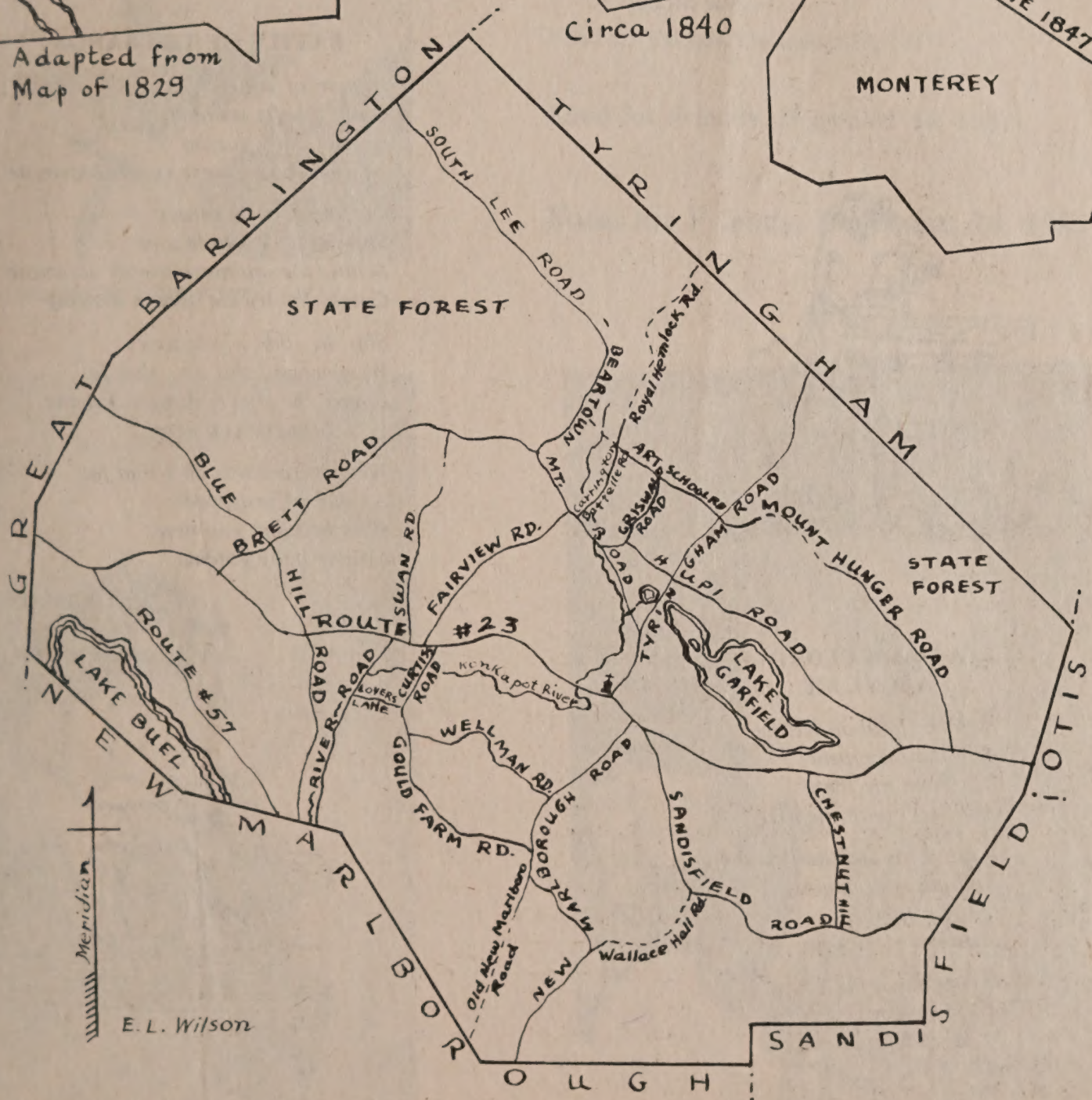
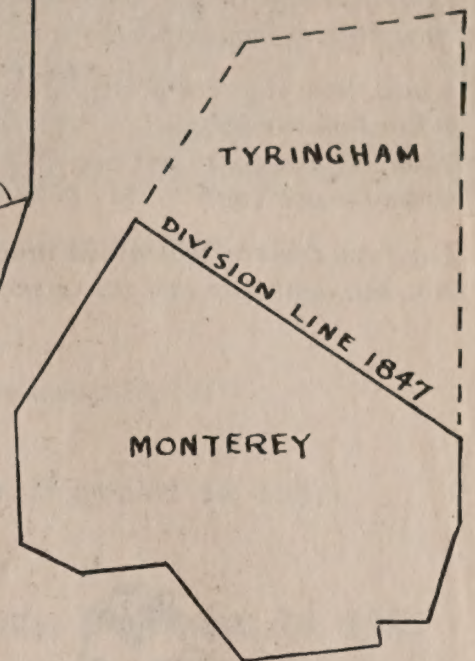


Adapted from
 Map of 1829



Circa 1840

Division of
 Tyringham Township
 1847



MONTEREY TOWNSHIP · 1983

WORDS: A LAMENT

*Words, you come creeping out
Tired, in grey morning,
Then bounce and dance about
Agile, too soon.*

*Don't you perceive that sometimes I am hungry?
Have you no thought for my luncheon at noon?*

*Words, now you seek delay
When I most need you,
Then leer and groan and say,
Write the dull stuff.*

*Can't you conceive that my lines must have music?
No. You don't care that my verses sound gruff.*

— Sue Moody



BATTLE OF THE BANDS

*Axman of yesteryear
Cut the hefty numbers
Gotcha baby gotcha
Behind the squinteye sweaty blownote*

*Cut the hefty numbers
Slip the slide whole tone
Behind the squinteye sweaty blownote
Comes the trickle demon dancing*

*Slip the slide whole tone
Wraparound this air's that fat
Comes the trickle demon dancing
Who brought you here?*

*Wraparound this air's that fat
Axman of yesteryear
Who brought you here?
Gotcha baby gotcha.*

— Peter Murkett

A DARK CLOUD
ABOVE ME

*A dark cloud above me
Will not disappear,
It follows me there
And stays with me here;*

*It threatens and taunts me
And always remains,
I'm fearfully dry,
It never brings rain;*

*It cuts down my courage
And heightens my fear,
A dark cloud above me
Will not disappear.*

— Matthew J. Reynolds





Sudi Baker and Marion Schneider share a book



David McAllester, Wallace Tryon, and Henry Schick

Food for Friends, December 14, 1987

Food for Friends, December 14, 1987

Food for Friends, December 14, 1987

PHOTO BY SUSAN McALLESTER



Helen Backhaus arrives for Food for Friends



Hedy Craven

MONTEREY PRESERVATION LAND TRUST

To Members and Friends of the Land Trust —
Season's Greetings

As 1987 came to a close, the Massachusetts legislature passed a remarkable open space bill that will provide over half a billion dollars for land acquisition and improvement throughout the Commonwealth. In terms of trade deficits or spending for armaments this is a small figure, but for all of us it's a major breakthrough that could stimulate a new pattern of thinking about conservation activities. Our state representatives have stressed to us that if these funds are to be well used, the Land Trusts must work aggressively.

The Berkshires, like the rest of the world, are under severe pressure from population and economic growth, expanding at geometric rates. We haven't much time to halt these trends. It's been estimated that we have about a dozen years — till the end of the century and the beginning of a new millennium. In this time could we alter thinking and actions sufficiently to reverse the exploitation and pollution of the planet before it becomes a total mess? Our Land Trust provides a mechanism for us to participate in doing something about the problem rather than being a part of the problem.

We are a political organization that must be involved constantly with the activities of the Town boards, where the action takes place. We also have the possibility of becoming a financial organization that can get into careful land development using techniques that have been successful in other areas. Particularly, we are an educational organization spreading the word about the timeless qualities of open land that might be saved for the generations beyond. We can help landowners learn tax law and preservation techniques to save land from the destruction of forced sales caused by estate taxes. Your contributions, large and small, are essential.

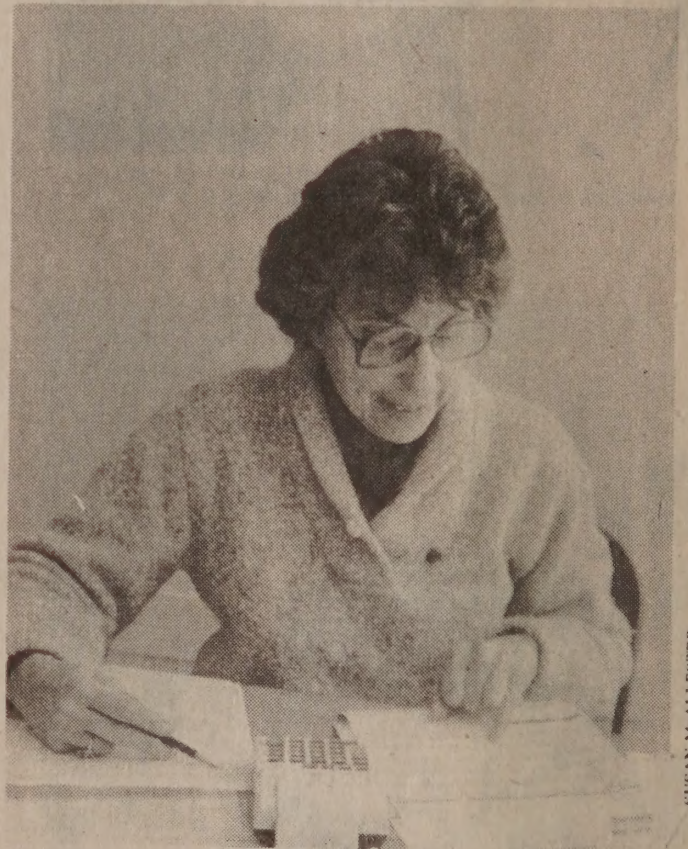
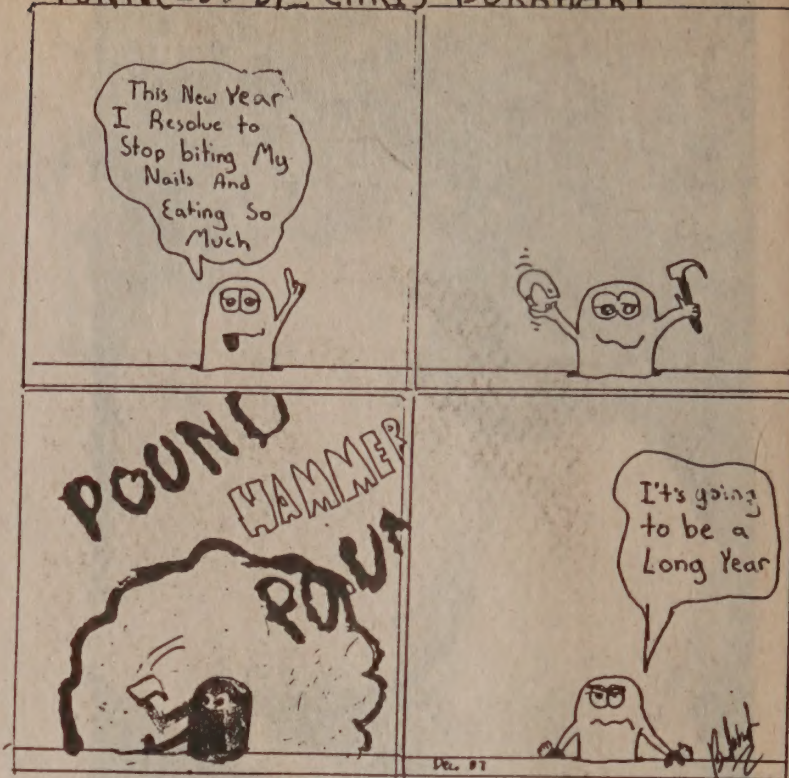
In 1987 a major landmark was saved from development when our first president and founder, Bob Thieriot, purchased the Phillips farm. This can become an example of gentle change that will preserve much of the quality of these important fields for Monterey. But we have not yet been successful in our efforts to work with the executors of the Old Manse estate, on which many of our members worked so diligently. The role of educator may be our only tactic for influencing the long-term fate of this priceless heritage of our town.

We're still a very young organization, earning our credibility. Meetings with other land trust groups have been very instructive. Our new committee system is just beginning, and we know that there are some major targets out there. The land is going fast, so let's do something about the problem.

— Lew Scheffey



TUNNELS: BY CHRIS BURKHART



Joan Weinstein adds up the charges at the monthly Food Coop distribution in the church basement.

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SUSAN McALLESTER

Betsy Aloisi pours punch at the Fire Company's party.



SUSAN McALLESTER

Ray Tryon, Leigh Tryon, Jed Lipsky, and Lincoln Lipsky after the performance of the Robbins-Zust Family Marionettes at the Fire Company's Christmas party.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I promise that this will positively be my last comment on the auto stickers for use of the Town dump.

In response to Joyce Scheffey (Solid Waste Committee), I didn't complain about the \$10.00 fee for the auto stickers. I objected to having to get a sticker for every car using your home in addition to your own cars. This includes your friends, relatives, guest rentals, etc. Quoting Joyce, "It would be nearly impossible to keep track of the number of cars in every household." What relationship does the number of cars in each household have to the amount of refuse generated? For example, in the course of a year, my household may have eight to ten cars in use. My home is used an average of three days a week and generates about one bag of garbage a week. Another household, with one car using the home seven days a week may generate two to three bags of garbage a week. In effect, then, the fees are not geared to the amount of refuse per household but to the number of cars in use, a totally unrelated factor. It is also a time-consuming nuisance getting the stickers. I don't see what was wrong with the old system of each home having one sticker which could be used on any of your vehicles (just taped to your windshield). I am not quibbling with the amount of the sticker even if it is higher than the current fee.

Finally, I wholeheartedly agree with Wayne and Joyce regarding saving newspapers and starting compost heaps with kitchen scraps. (By the way, does anyone know if it's safe to burn newspapers in our wood stove?) Call it love for Monterey or community spirit. I'm enclosing a check for \$50.00 to the Town of Monterey to help defray waste disposal expense. Maybe some others feel the same and may want to help out too.

Very truly yours,

Robert Tuttle

REDDY REMODELING

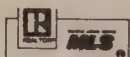
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(MONTEREY)

CAROL LEWIS

To the Editor:

The well-worn argument given whenever there is a controversial appointment to a Town board is that you sometimes cannot avoid conflicts of interest because it is so hard to find willing people to serve in a small community. This rings hollow in Monterey. As examples, two recent appointments by the selectmen will suffice: Mr. Raymond Tryon to the Conservation Commission and Mr. Harry Gustafson to the position of Assistant to the Assessors.

Mr. Tryon is the largest contractor in town and has just been made a voting member of the Conservation Commission. Much of the construction and site work in Monterey requires Commission approval. For any contractor to have a vote in matters that may affect his own work or that of his competitors is an obvious violation of State Ethics Law MGL 268A and is not something which should be condoned. One of the Commission's tasks is to determine a project's Order of Conditions, where even relatively minor changes can affect the amount of work required and the subsequent profitability of a project. Why give any contractor an edge?

What is more telling is that the selectmen never even gave anyone else an opportunity to apply for the seat. All of a sudden they announced that Mrs. Mielke was leaving on January 15 and that Mr. Tryon had applied for the opening and had been approved immediately. Even Commission members did not know exactly when Ms. Mielke was leaving, and the selectmen never even inquired of them if they had any suggestions as to who might be interested in the opening.

The other example concerns Mr. Harry Gustafson. He is chairman of New Marlborough's Board of Assessors as well as being a member of that town's Planning Board. He is also a real estate developer with a 30-acre, seven-lot subdivision in New Marlborough which is currently the subject of a major controversy in that town.

For Mr. Gustafson to be appointed by our selectmen to be Assistant to the Assessor in Monterey scares me into wondering whether Mr. Gustafson will be bringing his brand of development to our town (or perhaps assisting those already on our Town boards who incline to that occupation). Ready access to those assessors' records which are not in the public domain would easily allow a real estate developer knowledge of which parcels are not only suitable for development but also which of those lands may soon be coming on the market.

Foreknowledge of this type of critical information is often available to assessors only. Obviously, it is important that persons with access to such sensitive data not be in the business of exploiting it. Once again, the selectmen never chose to advertise the position in the *Monterey News*. A few in town just might have been interested in this paying job.

These are examples of conflicts which are plainly unacceptable and downright unethical. Given that the selectmen have never made any attempt to even notify the public that openings existed, they cannot justify controversial appointments with the argument that these conflicts are unavoidable since there are so few willing to serve. You cannot make that argument when you do not give willing people a chance to know that a specific opening exists and that they can have the opportunity to fill it.

It would make sense when positions open on Town boards that notice be placed in the *Monterey News* and on Town bulletin boards so that anyone interested can let the selectmen know. It would thus enable them to have as large a list of interested candidates as possible and allow them to avoid those with conflicts. In the meantime, I believe the selectmen should withdraw both of the above questionable appointments as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn M. Heller

To the Editor:

Monterey—what a town! And so well presented in the *Monterey News*! It's a little slice of America the way America should be.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Simons

To the Editor:

On November 29 we spent a delightful Sunday afternoon at the United Church of Christ in the village, being entertained by some of our local musical talent.

We left with a feeling of great enrichment and pride in being members of such a talented community.

The Church Committee as well as the performers are to be commended for providing this enjoyable celebration of the spirit of true community in Monterey. It was a treat not to be missed!

— Arthur and Alice Somers



PERSONAL NOTES

Hearty congratulations to those Monterey students inducted into the Auriga Chapter of the National Honor Society at Mt. Everett Regional High School on November 24. New members are, from the class of 1990, **Natasha Grotz** and **Anne Makuc**. They join **Shelby Loder**, **Kip Makuc** and **Janet Thieriot** as members. Keep up the good work, all of you!

Congratulations to my two daughters, the survivors: **Michelle**, for her "blue books" at Mt. Holyoke College, and **Natasha**, for her first downhill ski race at the 1980 Olympic site, Whiteface Mountain, New York.

Very Happy Birthday Wishes to **Natasha Grotz** on December 12, and to our Highway Superintendent, **Donald Amstead**, and **Hedy Craven**, both on December 25! Believe it?

The engagement of Michael Milsner Azerrad, son of **Ruth Milsner** of Beartown Mountain Road and San Francisco and Joel Azerrad of Briarcliff Manor, New York, and North Sandwich, New Hampshire, to Julia Barnett Just has been announced by her parents, Mrs. Robert Turrell Bower of Washington and Quogue, Long Island, and Ward Just of Vineyard Haven and Paris, France.

Michael and Julie live in New York, where Michael is a freelance music critic and Julie is on the editorial staff of *The New Yorker* magazine.

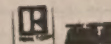
A very Happy Holiday Season to one and all, and here's looking toward a joyous New Year with lots of good news for me. Don't forget to submit your items, lest this space become a Grotz family journal! Jot down your news and mail it to me, Route 23, or drop it at the General Store, or give me a call at 528-4519 evenings. I appreciate your help.

— Stephanie Grotz

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MONTEREY GRANGE

Monterey Grange #291 met November 18 for a Thanksgiving Program. Lecturer Mary Wallace recently attended the National Grange sessions at Syracuse, New York. Master Tabitha Butler was guest Master at Great Barrington Grange #265 on November 19. Sister Marion Thomson was elected Steward.

The next meeting was December 2. In preparation for Christmas, members had been asked to bring in articles for cheer boxes.

The Grange met December 19 at the Hall for the annual Christmas party for members, families and friends. There was a variety program with Sister Edith Wheeler as pianist, followed by a delicious buffet. There was a lollipop tree for the children. Sister Violet Hardisty won the afghan crocheted by Sister Ann Vickerman. A Past Secretary pin was presented to Sister Patricia Hardisty by Rev. W. Raymond Ward. The next meeting will be January 20 at the Lecturer's home. Happy Holiday!

— Mary Wallace
Lecturer



Chris Bragdon
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BUTTERNUT BASIN MONTEREY SKI DAY

Friday, February 26, is Monterey Ski Day at Butternut Basin—a date to remember! Put it on your calendar and plan accordingly. Special rates will apply.

PARK COMMISSION NEWS

The Park Commission is putting the mowing contract for our parks out to bid for the fiscal year July 1, 1988, through June 30, 1989. Bids are to be opened on February 4 at the regular meeting in the Town offices. Any information is available by calling Dek Tillett at 528-3184 or 229-8765.

The January 7 meeting will include the Gazebo Committee and the Beach Committee.

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

— Fran, Dek and Tom

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Note: There will be no Community Supper in January or February unless somebody has a special program available. In that case please call Milly at 528-4257 to make plans.

Mondays, January 4, 11, 18, 25—Bible Study Group at the Schulzes' on New Marlborough Road. Free of charge: sign up at General Store or call Karen Gottlieb-Schulze at 528-4052.

Saturday, January 9—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. Beginners and children welcome. All dances taught by Joe Baker, music by Mountain Laurel. Refreshments served. Adults, \$4.00; children \$1.00 to dance until intermission. Information: 413-528-9385 or 518-329-7578.

Friday, January 22—Boiler Room Reading, Robbie Burns Night with Kristin Linklater, who is Scottish herself and a teacher of voice and acting at Shakespeare & Company. For information about time, admission, reservations, or dinner beforehand, call 229-3105.

Saturday, January 23—Square and Contra Dance, New England style, at the Sheffield Grange, Route 7, Sheffield, Mass. 8:30-11:30 p.m. This program is for people who have done it before. For other details, see above in announcement for January 9.

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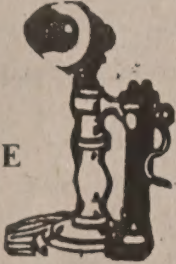
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Two-inch business cards (2" x 3 5/8")	5.00
Three-inch ad (3" x 3 5/8")	7.50
Four-inch ad (4" x 3 5/8")	10.00

Back cover ads are double the above prices. No classifieds on the back cover. Copy should reach the editor by the 20th of the month before publication. In general, we cannot run letters more than one column in length.

Drawings by David T. Balch, Maureen Banner, Steve Maye, Bonner McAllester, and Edith Wilson.

ICE IN TREETOPS REFLECTS SUNLIGHT GLORIOUSLY

Several times in the past few weeks the freezing rain has sheathed the trees in ice. Later the low winter sun has come out, and the ice has lit up like something in Aladdin's magic garden. But this is our own New England winter garden, and there are times when it surpasses the wonders described by Scheherazade.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Affordable Housing Committee has been appointed as a subcommittee of the selectmen to investigate options for affordable housing in Monterey.

It was decided that the Town's application for a municipal assistance grant for an engineering site study on the town hall site behind the firehouse was premature, and the application has been withdrawn. Procedure mandates that the issue first be put to the voters. There will be one or two informational meetings, and then a special Town Meeting to make a decision about the additional use of the site.

The Affordable Housing Committee has been working on several possible housing plans in keeping with the historical character and independent spirit of our town and welcomes the opportunity to present our ideas to the people of Monterey.

— Leslie Scutellaro

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